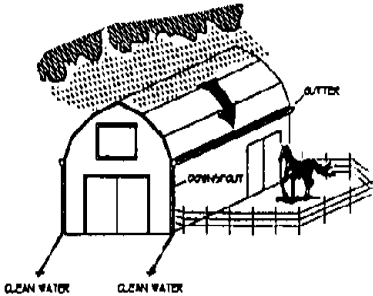




**Clallam Conservation  
District**

(360) 452-1912 ext. 5

<http://clallam.scc.wa.gov/>



- **Confine livestock during the winter to protect pastures.**
- **Develop mud-free paddocks by applying appropriate footing and drainage.**
- **Direct roof runoff water away from the sacrifice area by installing gutters and downspouts.**
- **Remove manure from the sacrifice area on a regular basis.**
- **Store manure in a dry, covered location away from surface water.**

# SACRIFICE AREAS

Sacrifice areas, also referred to as confinement areas, are small pens or corrals that animals are confined to during the winter months. Keeping livestock off of wet pastures is critical for maintaining healthy pastures. Pastures in Clallam County cannot survive continuous grazing and trampling during the winter months. Livestock's hooves often cause soil compaction, which suffocates plant roots and decreases the soil's ability to absorb water. By keeping your livestock in sacrifice areas during the wet months, the rest of your pastures will be able to rest and recover without overgrazing and compaction.

**LOCATION-** Your sacrifice area should be located on high ground, away from streams or wetlands. For accessibility and ease of chores, pick a location adjacent to the barn or feeding area. Your barn or shed should have gutters and downspouts so roof runoff doesn't enter the sacrifice area and create mud and manure contaminated runoff.

**SIZE-** The size of your sacrifice area depends on the type and number of livestock you own. For horses, one sacrifice area per animal is recommended. Sizes can range from a 20'x20' stall and larger. The amount of space your horse needs for exercise and play should determine the size of the area. Safe fencing material, supplemented with a hot wire, should be used to enclose the area. Take into account the type of equipment that will enter and leave the sacrifice area when selecting the size of the gate.

**FOOTING-** Many soils in Clallam County are poorly drained and prone to standing water during the wet months. Begin by removing the organic material (mud and manure) and then installing geotextile fabric on the prepared ground surface. Please refer to the *Geotextile Fabric* handout for more information on selecting and installing fabric. The geotextile fabric will allow water to pass but will prevent soil from migrating up through the footing. Then layer with a footing of your choice. Gravel that compacts to form a hard surface works well. We recommend a minimum of 6 inches of compacted rock. You can layer additional footing material, such as hogfuel, on top of the gravel. Manure must be removed from this area on a regular basis (every 1-3 days) to keep this area functioning as designed. Be sure to keep the area around the sacrifice area vegetated or livestock can bring soil into the gravel (on their hooves).

